



# Bulletin

May

# 2021

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## News from the AYM Executive Board

### **External Stakeholder Meetings**

As part of regular meeting arrangements, the AYM Chair, Hazel Williamson and the AYM Vice Chair, Jacqui Belfield-Smith met the **Youth Justice Board (YJB)** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April.



The agenda for the day included a discussion regarding strengthening the tripartite agreement to support the delivery of the Youth Justice Sector Led Improvement Partnership (YJSIP) programme. This move is welcomed by all parties and we would like to thank all of those who have been involved in shaping this agreement and extend our thanks also to the chairs of the YJSIP Board.

Hazel and Jacqui also raised issues regarding the national data, particularly given the issues with PNC data recording during COVID-19. We are assured that the YJB are taking this action forward and have identified this as a priority. There was particular discussion around the data in relation to children 'released under investigation' and how we could better understand the picture locally and nationally.

Part of the meeting was dedicated to discussion the serious incident reporting requirements which is being reviewed by the YJB. We are assured that there are no plans to replicate the previous process and YOTs will be consulted in due course.

Another area of increasing concern is the expectation that YOTs will undertake assessments to inform charging decisions for children outside of the 'out of court disposal' process. The YJB are aware of this issue and have agreed that they will support any development of guidance to help local teams.

Hazel and Jacqui said this was a positive meeting and future dates are planned. If as an AYM member you have any particular points or concerns that you would like to be considered at a future meeting please contact our Chair, Hazel, at [hazel.williamson@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hazel.williamson@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Following on from a previous meeting between members of the AYM Executive and members of the **Youth Justice Policy Unit at the Ministry of Justice**, we have been asked to meet once again to help support their work into understanding the interface between YOTs and other services. Members of the policy unit said that meeting with the Executive had proved really helpful and highlighted to them key points from a YOT perspective which will inform their development of proposals for policy.

## **Advocacy for Children**

Jessica Edwards, Portfolio Lead for Courts attended the Quality of Advocacy Working Group, hosted by the YJB on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, the first meeting for a considerable time as a result of the pandemic. The purpose of the Working Group is to consider the quality of legal representation for children involved in the criminal justice system and provides a forum for considering the quality of advocacy provided to children and to identify improvements that will ensure children are supported properly so that they fully understand what is happening to them.

This latest meeting received presentations from the YJB Youth Ambassadors about their experiences and observations and a report prepared for the YJB into Advocacy Training for Child Suspects and Defendants. This report cites research and data on advocacy provided to children in contact with the law and concludes by saying that:

*‘Clearly, the evidence supports the argument that children are not presently enjoying the level of legal and other support they deserve.’*

It also highlights what needs to be done to resolve this problem. If you are interested in reading the report please contact [jessica.edwards@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:jessica.edwards@hackney.gov.uk)

The meeting also heard of an offer of **free training** for youth offending services regarding home detention curfews and early release, from Chantel Prempeh from the Ministry of Justice. The training is half day online.

If you are interested in this training, please contact [Chantel.Prempeh@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Chantel.Prempeh@justice.gov.uk)

The Criminal Justice Innovation report ‘Time to Get it Right’ regarding enhancing problem-solving approaches in youth courts was also discussed. The AYM bulletin covered this report last year. If you missed the article, you can access the report by [clicking here](#)

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## **Press Regulators**

The AYM attended a meeting, hosted by the Alliance for Youth Justice, with the press regulator IMPRESS, as part of its review of its Standards Code and Guidance.

Members of the meeting talked openly of issues related to the way in which children in contact with the law are approached by the press and the impact this can have on them, and their families including siblings.

IMPRESS stated that they ‘truly value the input’ provided, they will assess this in order to inform the committee’s assessment.

To read the Standards and Code Guidance [click here](#)

If you have anything you wish to be raised with IMPRESS as part of this review, please contact [lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk)

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## Consultations

The government continues to consider reforms to legislation that affect children, families and criminal youth justice provision and the AYM has been engaged in numerous consultations and roundtables to help inform those reforms and ensure any changes result in reduced marginalisation, and provide positive outcomes for children in contact with the law.

We were pleased to receive a letter from Alex Chalk MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice referring to our response to the **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill**. The minister acknowledged our concerns but talked positively of the intentions within the Bill.

Mike Rees, the AYM's portfolio lead for mental health, provided a response to the **proposed reforms to the Mental Health Act** with some good examples provided by the membership.

Following a brief survey of members, Celine Gafos, portfolio lead for monitoring and inspections, has responded to the consultation on **HMIP's new inspection framework for youth offending teams (YOTs)**.

**The Education Select Committee** has opened an inquiry into education provision within prisons; including the youth secure estate and is keen to hear about the progress made since Charlie Taylors's review to 'education pathways' into custody for children, education provision within the youth secure estate and that offered following a child's release from custody.

In order to support the inquiry, the AYM attended a roundtable event with members of the select committee to discuss these issues and share experiences. The event, hosted by the Alliance for Youth Justice of which the AYM is a member, focussed on three key questions:

- What is required to effectively support children who are at risk of entering, or in contact with the youth justice system, with their educational needs, including those outside of mainstream education?
- How well is education in youth custody establishments supporting children, meeting additional learning needs, and providing them with the skills needed to access education, training and employment in the community?
- What should be the key priorities for the Committee's inquiry in relation to children and young people?

The evidence provided to members of the committee was rich and considered issues of quality of provision, accessibility and marginalisation of minority groups, including girls. The AYM will also be providing written evidence to the committee. **If you have any evidence that you would like to be included** in this submission, please contact your regional representative.

The YJB have invited the AYM to assist in the review of information sharing arrangements between **YOTs and the British Transport Police**, Pat Jennings will be undertaking this work and if members have anything they wish to be considered please contact Pat at [Pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk)

A copy of the AYM responses to consultations can be found on the AYM website:

[www.aym.org.uk/publications/consultations](http://www.aym.org.uk/publications/consultations)

## ***YOT Governance and Leadership***

### **Practice Guidance for Youth Offending Team Management Boards in England and Wales**

The YJB has published this draft practice guidance document and is asking stakeholders to contribute their views.

Members will know that the AYM has undertaken a lot of work of the past few years to encourage and contribute to the review of the previous guidance '*Modern YOT Partnerships*' published by the YJB in 2013. YOT inspections regularly evidence governance as requiring improvement and as such the AYM will be responding to this current document.

The AYM considers management board guidance to be an important resource to partners, supporting effective governance to the YOT as a partnership. The role of the board in ensuring the multi-agency model is properly applied and accordingly resourced is essential if YOTs are to be able to engage effectively with partners in the delivery of services that truly meet the needs of the children supervised by the YOT.



***We encourage all YOTs and their management boards to respond to this consultation*** and will share the AYM response with members before the submission date.

**The deadline for responses is the end of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

**If you have not received a copy of the document and wish to respond, please contact the AYM at [phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk)**

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***Do you have anything you wish the AYM Executive to consider in their next meeting?***

If you do, please let your regional representative know so that it can be discussed at an Executive meeting – you may even wish to attend yourself in order to present on the issue, just let us know.



## Aspiring Future Leaders Course

### **AYM Manager's Training**

As advised in the last bulletin we will be running another training course for front line managers. We have had a lot of interest but may still have some places available.

The course is particularly relevant to managers in YOTs who are contemplating making applications for more senior roles.

## **Aspiring Future Leaders Programme**



The programme is run in partnership with Solace and is an ILM development programme at level 5. The course consists of an introductory workshop and four two-day modules (9 days) and each module includes a guest speaker who holds a senior leadership role in the sector.



Due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 we are offering the course online but we have the option to change this if face to face training is allowed and preferred by participants.

Introductory Workshop (1 day) <b>10 – 4 on Zoom</b>	Monday 12 July 2021
Module 1 (2 days) Leadership and Change	7/8 September 2021
Module 2 (2 days) Strategic Thinking in Public Services	21/22 October 2021
Module 3 (2 days) Working Collaboratively across organisations	8/9 December 2021
Module 4 (2 days) Coaching for High Performance	19/20 January 2022

### **Optional timings for modules (dependent on training method):**

<b>Zoom training</b>	All dates	10am-4pm
<b>Face to face training (for each module):</b>	Day 1	10:30am - 5pm
	Day 2	9am - 3pm

For more information or to apply for a place on this cohort please contact

[adminsupport@aym.org.uk](mailto:adminsupport@aym.org.uk)

***Please note, AYM members receive a discount on the cost of the course.***



## Youth Justice Quality Awards

### ***Congratulations!***

As 2021 develops it seems more and more youth offending services are achieving a Youth Justice SEND Quality Award for their work with children with special educational needs and disabilities.

***Lincolnshire Local Area Partnership has attained the Quality Mark for the first time*** 'from a relative position of strength' and the 'Achievement for All' assessor noted particular strengths in protocols and processes that support the practice within the service.

Achievement for All also note that Lincolnshire's 'pathway to achieving Quality Lead status is already clearly mapped out.'

***Southwark Local Area Partnership has also extended their Quality Lead practice*** through re-designation reassessment.

Deidre Leask, Team Manager at South Youth Offending Service was praised for her 'brilliant' co-ordination with detailed and extremely information evidence provided for assessment.

Southwark were first benchmarked five years ago and Achievement for All, in its re-assessment of the partnership found numerous examples of best practice and in particular an openness and willingness to learn from practice.

For more information on the Youth Justice SEND Quality Awards, please contact [Marius.Frank@afaeducation.org](mailto:Marius.Frank@afaeducation.org)

If you are interested in seeing some of the most recent success stories [click here](#)

***Congratulations to Lincolnshire and Southwark, well done!***



## Vacancies



Knowsley Council

### **Knowsley Youth Offending Service Recruiting Youth Justice Officer**

Knowsley Youth Offending Service is seeking a youth justice officer to support the work of the service, in particular case managers and specialist practitioners in the development and delivery of strength-based interventions with children, their families and the wider community.

The work involves planning and undertaking direct delivery of 1 to 1 and group work with children aimed at preventing offending and re-offending. There is a strong focus on reducing risk factors associated with children who offend, contributing to the YOS assessment & intervention process to support children and families, as well as supporting them to participate in restorative justice processes, including community reparation.

Applicants will need a minimum of 1 years' experience of working with children and their families in criminal justice, children's services or other related field of work.

A key aspect of the job is the ability to engage children and families who may be challenging. Applicants will need to be creative in the way they work with complex families, engaging them to build on the positives whilst having a strong understanding of the impact of exploitation, trauma and adverse childhood experiences.

**For an informal discussion** about the position, contact Mark McCausland, operations manager on: **0151 443 5556**

**Closing Date is 11:55pm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.**

For more information and to apply for the position [click here](#)

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### **YJB Chief Executive Retires**

Colin Allars, who was appointed as Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board in July 2016 has announced his retirement. Prior to joining the YJB, Colin was Director of Probation within the National Offender Management Services (NOMS and responsible for establishing the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) as part of the Probation Reform programme.



The AYM met regularly with Colin in his role of Chief Executive and the AYM would like to thank him for his active engagement with the AYM in order to help achieve improved outcomes for children in the criminal justice system.

***We wish you all the best in your retirement Colin!***

***The YJB has also announced the further postponement of its Annual Youth Justice Conference until spring 2022.***

## Child First Justice: The research evidence-base

### New Report Published

Stephen Case, Professor of Criminology and Ann Browning, Senior Researcher at Loughborough University have published a report on their findings from research undertaken to ***‘enhance the knowledge, understanding and application of Child First’*** by stakeholders working in the youth justice system.



The research is informed by a comprehensive review of international literature, legislation, government reports, policy, protocols and practitioner guidance, and third sector research reports. The report uses the structure of the Child First principle as set out in the YJB’s revised standards and sets out four interacting tenets which the authors argue *have ‘a longstanding evidence-base in academic theory, practical research, policy, strategy, practice guidance and operational examples’*. These tenets are :

1. See children as children
2. Develop pro-social identity for positive child outcomes
3. Collaboration with children
4. Promote diversion

Each tenet is considered in terms of its ‘components’ and for each the relevant evidence-base is cited with a summary of the key findings and messages that support Child First. Case studies and operational examples are used to illustrate the research in practice. The authors state that:

*‘The evidence collected and reported brings longstanding, multi-disciplinary research evidence-based related to each tenet and the associated emerging practical (research) evidence-base to support the Child First model of youth justice.’*



The report provides the evidence to adopt the Child First principle in work with children. Practitioners and other stakeholders will no doubt find the evidence provided in this report encouraging, giving confidence that adopting such an approach is a positive step forward in work with children.

To read the publication [click here](#) where you can also find a video clip of Steve talking about the Child First Principle and the report

### ***CJI Launched New Report***

The Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) launched its **new research report, *Equal diversion?*** at an online event with YJB Chair Keith Fraser, on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. The report, co-authored with Alexandra Cox, Senior Lecturer at the University of Essex, explores racial disproportionality in youth diversion schemes.

Stephen Whitehead, Head of Evidence and Data at the Centre, introduced the event, explaining that the research was driven by recurring practitioner concerns about the existence of racial inequality in young people's involvement in youth diversion. Aisha Ofori, one of the Centre's Research Officers, outlined how the research team collected qualitative data to investigate this, interviewing YOT staff, police, solicitors, young people and their families in two local authorities in England and Wales. Findings showed that while youth diversion operates in a difficult environment, with better practice, the benefits can be made more broadly felt.

Keith Fraser, Chair of the Youth Justice Board, called the report 'timely', given the current focus on racial disproportionality in the justice system. Keith engaged with delegate questions about barriers that young people from communities with low levels of trust in the system face, and encouraged removing the admission of guilt as a prerequisite to diversion, a key recommendation of the report. Keith called for more training for professionals working with children in the justice system, echoing findings from a [previous CJI report](#) on young people's experience of youth court.

Francesca Fadda-Archibald, Practice Development Manager (Early Help & Prevention) at Young Hackney, gave an invaluable insight into delivering diversion for young people in an ethnically diverse area of London. Francesca described how Young Hackney created a joint decision making panel, to ensure decisions of eligibility are accountable and fair. The panel consists of police officers, social workers, clinicians, substance misuse workers and youth workers, and in a new pilot, community volunteers, and considers the views of the young person, their family and any victims in making their decision; decisions are scrutinised by members of the YJB, the magistracy and the Crown Prosecution Service. Francesca deemed building accountability as crucial to overcoming historical and current mistrust in the system.

Sophie Wainwright, Criminal Justice Policy & Campaigns Officer at The Traveller Movement, responded to the report's findings in relation to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people. Sophie highlighted her concern about the perception that young people from these communities are not as willing to take advantage of opportunities such as diversion, which she considers to be driven by preconceived attitudes to what a home life and a family should look like. This, she explained, acts as a barrier to diversion and accessing support and emphasised the need for action, and being open to changing practice in light of the report's findings, in order to tackle the barriers children from ethnic minority backgrounds in the justice system encounter.

CJI hope this report and event will lead to more conversations and better practice, so that all children and young people are offered a chance to change their behaviour and realise their future potential.

To view a recording of the event is available [click here](#) To read the report [click here](#)

## Social Media and Safeguarding

### **Former Children's Commissioner Issues Legal Claim**

Anne Longfield, the former Children's Commissioner has announced in her Twitter account that she has issued a legal claim, **on behalf of millions of children against 'TikTok'** for their alleged illegal transfer of children's data to third parties for profit. Such transfer of data is contrary to the UK Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the UK GDPR (post-Brexit).



In an interview with the BBC, Anne stated that TikTok collects excessive data from children and argued that parents have a right to know what data is being collected stating TikTok's 'data collection service is thinly veiled as a social network' which has 'deliberately and successfully deceived parents.'

The claim which aims to win compensation for affected children; those who do not wish to be party to the claim can opt out. If children wish to be included in the claim, they can register their interest by visiting the website set up to provide more information about the claim, including updates on its progress: <https://tiktokdataclaim.uk/the-class/>

The claim is following the Supreme Court case of Lloyd v Google, the outcome of which is expected to have a bearing on the way in which the claim is pursued.

Whilst social media has no doubt supported a lot of children through the period of the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many professionals have been concerned about the potential for online abuse and exploitation to occur.



The NSPCC research report 'Isolated and Struggling: Social isolation and the risk of child maltreatment, in lockdown and beyond' reported that children's vulnerability had increased, and that there was the potential for more online abuse and exploitation. The report also noted that the 'normal' safeguards for children had been reduced due to the lack of contact with those outside the immediate family.

To read the NSPCC report [click here](#)

## Updated YJB Summary Ethnic Disproportionality Toolkit

### ***The YJB Discuss its use...***



It was clear from the [Youth Justice Statistics for 2019 to 2020](#) that ethnic disproportionality exists in most areas of the youth justice system. The data shows that the proportion of Black children arrested has steadily increased over the past decade; and, while the number of first-time entrants from a Black background has decreased compared with ten years ago, the proportion of Black children given a caution or sentence has doubled over the same period and the proportion of Black children on remand in youth custody has increased to over a third.

As part of the YJB's work to address ethnic disproportionality we have updated and refreshed the Summary Ethnic Disproportionality Toolkit. The toolkit is available to all youth offending teams (YOTs) via the Youth Justice Application Framework and provides information about the representation of ethnic groups in the youth justice system in England and Wales.

As well as enabling YOTs to identify disproportionality in their local area, the toolkit helps them share data with local stakeholders, consider trends and measure the impact of their work.

Among the updates is a new data dashboard. This dashboard presents important information and analysis from the toolkit in accessible forma; allowing YOTs to determine the key messages from the tool quickly and easily.

**Suffolk Youth Justice Service has been using the toolkit** to get a better understanding of disproportionality in its local data. They have created a summary datasheet that enables the key findings from the toolkit to be shared with staff and their Management Board members.

From using the toolkit, they found:

The view of the differences between different ethnic groups was more understandable thanks to the Relative Rate Index (RRI).

- There was a wider range of information, from cohort numbers, outcomes and offences.
- A lot of calculations were suppressed due to the small numbers in Suffolk which helped them conclude that it was more meaningful to use the main Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic classifications.

**Belinda Clabburn, Manager at Suffolk Youth Justice Service said:**

*“The information provided in the toolkit has been a useful supplement to analysis we already routinely complete in Suffolk, and the additional information supplied by the toolkit will assist with identifying any further areas of concern that can then be addressed by the service and wider partnership.”*

## Falling Through the Gaps



### **Report from the Young Women's Justice Project**



The Young Women's Justice Project, funded by the Lloyds Bank Foundation, is run in partnership between Agenda and the Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ). The project provides a national platform to consider the needs of young women aged 17-25 years who are in contact with the law.

In July 2020, the Young Women's Justice Project brought together over 50 professionals from the youth, women and girls' and criminal justice sectors to an expert seminar to discuss the challenges facing girls in transition.

The report '**Falling Through the Gaps: Young women transitioning to the adult justice system**', is a response to the issues raised at this forum and argues that young women, a minority within the criminal justice system, are consistently overlooked in policy. Drawing on insights from the expert seminar, it sets out current policy context and key findings about young women's experiences as they turn 18 and transition to adulthood. It discusses their experiences in the criminal justice system and other services in which they transition, including in mental health support, accommodation and considers their experience of changes in safeguarding responses and leaving care.

The report finds:

- Girls and young women in contact with the criminal justice system as they turn 18 are more likely to have experienced violence, abuse and exploitation, poor mental health and early parenthood than boys – vulnerabilities which can be a key driver for their contact with the criminal justice system,
- Young women face a cliff edge in support as they turn 18, with many services – including safeguarding, mental health and accommodation – changing all at once, and vital support reducing or dropping off. Many young women fall through the gaps and experience heightened vulnerability at this time.
- Black and minoritized girls and young women are overrepresented and face harsher treatment in the criminal justice system. Racism and other forms of oppression underpin their experiences of disadvantage, leaving them vulnerable to further criminalisation as they turn 18, with little to no specialist support.
- Young women who become care leavers as they turn 18 are also over-represented and face additional stigma. Previous experiences of instability are exacerbated by their dual experience of transitioning to the adult criminal justice system and leaving care, leaving them at greater risk of re-offending without the right support.

The report calls for a joined-up approach to address issues which lead young women to offend, accompanied by greater availability of specialist, age and gender-specific support for young women in contact with the criminal justice system as they move into adulthood, integrated with local services.

To read the report [click here](#)

## Trauma Informed Lawyering

### **New Legal Guide Published**



The Children's Rights Group at Doughty Street Chambers and the Youth Justice Legal Centre at Just for Kids Law launched the new legal guide 'Trauma Informed Lawyering' in the youth justice system.



The well attended launch event heard from a number of experts including:

- Professor Felicity Gerry QC, International Queen's Counsel at Libertas Chambers, London and Crockett Chambers, Melbourne
- Aswini Weeraratne QC, Queen's Counsel at Doughty Street Chambers
- Dr Sinéad Marriot, Lead psychologist within the Parenting and Child Teams at Great Ormond Street Hospital
- Melissa Rutherford, Director at Rutherford Sheridan Solicitors and criminal advocacy tutor at Strathclyde University, and
- Shauneen Lambe, Director of Impact Law for Social Justice and Co-founder of Just for Kids Law

Speakers recognized the importance of recognizing trauma when supporting children in the criminal justice system in order to ensure that children are supported appropriately and that behaviours resulting from trauma are seen through a trauma lens and not a behavioural one.

Dr Sinéad Marriot spoke of the importance of understanding that trauma results in a range of behaviours in children when they are being interviewed. The role of appropriate adult was also identified as an important supporting role and as such training regarding trauma for this role is essential to ensure fair treatment.

The need to consider the way in which traumatized children are communicated with was also discussed as was the potential for diversion from prosecution, and the importance of appointing experts in trauma in criminal hearings to support understanding amongst decision makers.

Potential re-traumatization of those giving evidence was identified and therefore the need to avoid a child having to repeat their evidence. Professor Felicity Gerry QC was very keen to point out that for lawyers, ***the client is the most important person in the court and should be recognized by everyone as such***, as such court layout and the approach taken toward child defendants and witnesses is essential if justice is to be fair.

The secondary trauma experienced by professionals was recognized and the importance of clinical support and reflective practice to help manage this.

The legal guide gives practical tips on how to work in a trauma informed way, and when and how to introduce evidence of trauma to support legal strategies at each stage of a criminal case; providing practical advice on work that needs to be done by the defence at each stage.

To access the legal guide [click here](#)

# News

## Other News

### Domestic Abuse Bill

The Domestic Abuse Bill received Royal Assent on the 29th April and will become the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) issued a communication welcoming the legislation and noted the potential the legislation has to significantly improve the lives of those experiencing domestic abuse, including children. Those children with speech, language and communication difficulties are further affected and more likely to experience such abuse, however their communication difficulties act as a barrier to reporting it and accessing services and support.

RCSLT noted there is still more that can be done but praised the fact that:

- The Government has recognized that people with communication needs can be especially at risk of harm and domestic abuse, as well as facing additional barriers in accessing services, and
- That the forthcoming domestic abuse strategy will afford a further opportunity for the Government to ensure that it is adopting a whole-system approach when tackling domestic abuse and these unique needs.



Diz Minnit, the AYM portfolio lead for speech, language and communication, was party to the RCSLT response to the Bill, and in its communication the RCSLT thanked the AYM and others for their contributions.

To read the communication [click here](#)

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### Call for Action on Reducing Racial Disparity



Phil Bowen, Director of Criminal Justice Innovation, has called for action rather than more reviews to build trust and 'heal the scars of racial disparity in our justice system'.

In a blog responding to the report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, Phil notes that with such a wide agenda the section on crime considers only a small number of issues and argues that if the Commission's policing recommendations and the broader criminal justice recommendations of the Lammy review were to be considered together this be more likely to approach a comprehensive strategy for tackling racial disparity.

To read Phil's blog [click here](#)

## 'Big Ask'



The Children's Commissioner's 'Big Ask' consultation was launched just after the Easter break. Described as a '*once-in-a-generation review of the future of childhood*', and '*inspired by William Beveridge's pioneering 1940s report*', it looks to identify barriers to children achieving their full potential.

The Commission which looks to understand the impact of the pandemic on children's lives will also address the reasons the long standing areas of concern resulting from policies affecting children. As a result of the consultation the 'Childhood Commission' will propose changes in policy and service provision and develop targets for improvements.

The Big Ask is an online survey which will be distributed through schools and advertised in social media and other communication channels.

The survey will be sent to the youth secure estate, children's home and CAMHS inpatient providers so **YOT staff may wish to bring this to the attention of children they support** in those settings. The Commission will also hold face to face interviews and focus groups with children who are harder to reach.

The Big Ask runs from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May and the resultant report will be published later this year.

To read more about the consultation [click here](#)

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## Alliance for Youth Justice Launch Event:

### ***AGM and Members' Meeting***

Members of the Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) attended the AGM on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and heard from one of the AYJ **Young Advocates** who spoke positively about the experience of being a member of this group and the way in which these are enhancing his future life chances.

The members meeting heard from Michael O'Connor of SHiFT that looks to deliver youth justice interventions based on the Pause and Breaking Cycles model and whose work is being evaluated by the Youth Endowment Fund. Members also heard from Steve Chalke, Founder of Oasis which will be running the first secure school, and Andy Willetts the Principal Director of the secure school. The vision for the establishment was discussed and the intention to create a community across the 'houses' which will each accommodate six children.

Louise Falshaw, Director Strategy and Research at HMI Probation, who outlined the new YOT inspection framework that has been subject to consultation. AYJ members were invited by Louise to contribute to the consultation and offer suggestions regarding the proposed research to be undertaken by the inspectorate.



## Children and Young People Now Awards

The Children & Young People Now Awards are open for nominations for their 2021 award for those who can demonstrate best practice and innovation in their work with children, young people and families.

The award, now in its sixteenth year, offers an opportunity to raise the profile of projects and initiatives to funders and the general public.



Closing date for nominations for the award is **Friday 9th July 2021**.

The award ceremony will take place on **25th November 2021**

For more information on the award and how to submit an entry [click here](#)

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## Prevention Campaign Launched

**The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)** has launched a 'self-generated child sexual abuse' prevention campaign which is backed by the Home Office and Microsoft.

IWF state their '*data shows 11-13 year old girls are increasingly at risk of grooming and coercion at the hands of online predators.*' The campaign encourages children to '**block, report and tell**' an adult they trust, and aims to reduce the number of girls sending self-generated images online.

IWF provides resources for parents to warn them of online risks to their children and help them reduce that risk.

The campaign will run for six weeks. To find out more [click here](#)

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## Items of Interest



## Calendar of events for AYM 2021

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Executive Board meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> June	Virtual Meeting
Executive Board and AGM	September, date tbc.	Warwickshire Youth Justice Service, Rugby <i>(subject to COVID-19 arrangements)</i>
Executive Board meeting	30 <sup>th</sup> November	To be confirmed

***Please contact your regional representative (see below) if you wish the Executive Board to consider a particular issue, or if you have an item you would like to bring to their attention at one of their meetings.***

***To keep up to date with this calendar between Bulletins, please look at our website:***

**[aym.org.uk](http://aym.org.uk)**

## Closing Date for Bids to the Youth Endowment Fund



The Youth Endowment Fund's £20 million grant round closes this month.

Through this grant round the fund wants to find out how offering alternatives to arrest, conviction and custody can sustainably prevent 10 to 17-year-olds from becoming involved in violence.

It is looking to fund and evaluate a range of diversion activities across England and Wales, like mental health support, whole family interventions or mentoring.

Applications **close at 5pm Friday 14 May 2021**. To apply for a funding [click here](#)

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## Murder Media: Social media, music and violence

**SOLVE: The Centre for Youth Violence and Conflict** is holding this online webinar that will explore the correlation between social media, music and street violence.

The webinar aims to help professionals working in criminal justice, education, social care and youth services to understand the communication channels children use and understand the wider impact of fashion, film, games and music on young people. .

This online webinar takes place on:

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021**

**11am – 1pm**

To find out more book a place on this training [click here](#)

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## ADCS Virtual Annual Conference

The first day of this conference is reserved for Directors of Children's Services with day two open to all ADCS member, with no limit on numbers.

The conference takes place on:

**7th – 9th July, 2021**

Visit the ADCS website by [clicking here](#), where an agenda will be published shortly

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## Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....  
**We have more than 3,000 followers** who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers.  
It's easy to sign up - our username is:

[@AssnYOTmanagers](https://twitter.com/AssnYOTmanagers)



See also the **'latest news'** section at <http://aym.org.uk>



Via our website <http://aym.org.uk/about-us/contact-us>

Via Twitter [@AssnYOTmanagers](https://twitter.com/AssnYOTmanagers)

Email our Editor [lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk)

This AYM Newsletter shares items which we feel may be of interest to members and other interested parties, but this should not be taken as endorsement of individuals, organisations or their products.



The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of AYM or its membership.

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## AYM Regional Representatives

Below is the list of regional representatives across the country, with email addresses. Please contact your regional representative if there are issues you want to raise; we welcome your input.

[Click here](#) for details of all Executive Board members.

<b>East</b>	<b>Pat Jennings</b> <b>Bedfordshire</b> <b>YOS</b>				
<b><i>pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk</i></b>					
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>Karen Manville</b> <b>Leicester City</b> <b>YJS</b>		<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>Celia Payne</b> <b>Wolverhampton</b> <b>YOS</b>	
<b><i>Karen.Manville@leicester.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>celia.payne@wolverhampton.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>South East</b>	<b>Charlie Spencer</b>  <b>Surrey</b> <b>YOS</b>		<b>South West</b>	<b>Mike Rees</b> <b>North Somerset</b> <b>YOT</b>	
<b><i>charlie.spencer@surreycc.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>North East</b>	<b>VACANT</b>		<b>North West</b>	<b>Celine Gafos</b> <b>Knowsley</b> <b>YOS</b>	
			<b><i>celine.gafos@knowsley.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>London</b>	<b>Brendan Finegan</b>  <b>Hackney</b> <b>YOT</b>		<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	<b>Samantha Matthews</b> <b>East Riding</b> <b>YOS</b>	
<b><i>brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>Samantha.T.Matthews@eastriding.gov.uk</i></b>		